

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SSO-00 OES-06 /044 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RELTZ:RE
APPROVED BY ARA:CWBRAV
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN (DRAFT)
-----082006Z 130261 /43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079257

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM BRAY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, BR, US

SUBJECT:US-BRAZIL RELATIONSHIP: INTER-AGENCY ATTENTION

REF: (A) BRASILIA 2018; (BR)BRASILIA 2090; (C) BRASILIA 2222

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF
APRIL 6 REGARDING THE INFORMAL IG MEETING WHICH I CHAIRED
APRIL 1:

BEGIN QUOTE: INTER-AGENCY FOCUS ON THE U.S.-BRAZIL RELATION-
SHIP

ON APRIL 1, ARA CHAIRED AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE INTER-
DEPARTMENTAL GROUP (IG) FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS TO REVIEW
THE THREE-PART ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT U.S.-
BRAZIL RELATIONS RECENTLY PREPARED BY EMBASSY, BRASILIA.
WE BELIEVE THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A NEEDED INTER-AGENCY
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FOCUS ON "MANAGING" CONSTRUCTIVELY THE VARIED NON-NUCLEAR
FACETS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS INFORMAL MEETING WOULD NOT BE
BINDING IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC AGENCY DECISIONS AND ACTIONS.
NONETHELESS, THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY BROAD CONSENSUS ON
ISSUES AND APPROACHES.

THERE WAS UNIVERSAL ADMIRATION AROUND THE TABLE FOR THE QUALITY, RANGE AND INSIGHT OF THE EMBASSY'S DIAGNOSIS AND PRESCRIPTIONS. THERE WAS ALSO A STRIKING UNANIMITY OF VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A SOUND RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL AND ON THE NEED FOR "SPECIAL ADDRESS" TO THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HORIZON.

THE GROUP CONCURRED THAT THE SINGLE OVERRIDING ISSUE IN THE NEAR TERM WAS THE NUCLEAR QUESTION -- AND THAT OUR ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR NUCLEAR OBJECTIVES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD DEAL WITH GENUINE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND BUSINESSLIKE FASHION WHERE THIS WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INTERFERE WITH THE CLIMATE FOR NUCLEAR SETTLEMENT.

A SOMBRE NOTE: IT WAS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WEEK'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL (GEISEL'S CLOSING OF CONGRESS AND INDICATIONS OF OTHER EXECUTIVE "FIATS" TO COME) COULD ADD NEW COMPLICATIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND LIMIT OUR FLEXIBILITY TO ADOPT FORTHCOMING POSTURES TOWARD THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT.

IN SUM, HOWEVER, I THINK WE HAVE -- TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN IN THE PAST -- AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL SENSITIVITY TO OUR BROAD POLICY GOALS WITH RESPECT TO BRAZIL AND TO THE NEED FOR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN PURSUING THESE. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING THIS UP CAREFULLY IN THE COMING WEEKS.
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END QUOTE.

2. PARTICIPATING IN MEETING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF: NSC; DEFENSE (OSD/ISA AND JCS); USIA; COMMERCE; STR; TREASURY; CIA. STATE BUREAUS/OFFICES WERE: D/HA; OES; EB; PM; ARA.

3. WE DID NOT EXAMINE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS REFTEL (C) ONE BY ONE IN THIS INITIAL MEETING, BUT THERE APPEARED TO BE CONCURRENCE IN PRINCIPLE WITH MOST OF THEM. THERE WAS CERTAINLY CONCURRENCE WITH THE GENERAL APPROACH YOU OUTLINED. THE GROUP AGREED WE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD ON SEVERAL FRONTS: BRIEFING BRAZILIAN EMBASSY/MILITARY MISSION PERSONNEL ON EFFECTS OF RECENT GOB ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE (SEPTTEL); ASSURING APPROPRIATE LEVEL COMMERCE REPRESENTATION AT TRADE CENTER OPENING (WE --ARA-- INDICATED WE MIGHT REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF SECRETARY KREB'S ATTENDING IF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS THEN UNFOLDING IN BRAZIL DID NOT MAKE THIS INADVIS-

ABLE); DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR TIMING OF NEXT TRADE

GROUP MEETING; FOLLOWING UP ON PROPOSAL FOR KATZ TRIP.

4. I WAS STRUCK BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH NON-STATE/ARA PARTICIPANTS WERE, ON ENTERING THE MEETING, ALREADY SENSITIZED TO THE FACT THAT OUR ACTIVITIES IN ONE AREA CAN IMPACT ON OBJECTIVES IN ANOTHER -- AND ON THE RELATIONSHIP AS A WHOLE. AN IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE ENSUING DISCUSSION WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR ALL AGENCIES TO BE ALERT TO THE RANGE OF ACTIONS AND EVENTS -- INCLUDING "ROUTINE" ONES -- THAT CAN TOUCH ON BRAZILIAN INTERESTS AND SENSITIVITIES. (EXAMPLES AT THE MEETING RAN FROM THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF JBUSMC TO USIA RESPONSE TO ITS INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON CUTS IN OPERATIONS IN PORTO ALEGRE.)

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5. THE NSC SUGGESTION THAT WE COMPILE A MASTER CALENDAR OR CHECKLIST OF DEVELOPMENTS/OPPORTUNITIES WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED. WE ARE RECEIVING CALENDAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE OTHER OFFICES AND AGENCIES THIS WEEK AND WOULD WELCOME ANY YOU MAY WISH TO ADD TO THOSE ALREADY COVERED IN YOUR 2222.

6. TO SUMMARIZE: IN TERMS OF THE BREADTH OF INTRA AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL AWARENESS OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A SOUND BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL, I THINK THE APRIL 1 MEETING WAS THE CLOSEST WE HAVE COME YET TO THE "SPECIAL ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION" YOU CALLED FOR IN YOUR MEMO TO BILL ROGERS IN SEPTEMBER 1975. WE PLAN TO MEET AGAIN IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS -- THIS APART FROM WHATEVER MORE FORMAL PROCESSING IS GIVEN TO THE PARM.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERAGENCY MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE079257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RELTZ:RE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0757
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770473/aaaackc.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 036dbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRASILIA 2018, 77 BRASILIA 2090, 77 BRASILIA 2222
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2854355
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-BRAZIL RELATIONSHIP: INTER-AGENCY ATTENTION
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, BR, US
To: BRASILIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/036dbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009